

State prison helps Intra-City League kick off 57th year of Baseball

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Commissioner, J. David Donahue



Michigan City, Indiana - On Saturday, June 9th, the Intra-City league started its 57th year of organized baseball. Mayor Chuck Oberlie threw out the first pitch on a warm spring day. The league consists of three divisions, 15 teams, and involves over 200 kids, from ages 4-12.

"I am excited to see that staff and offenders are always finding ways to make their local communities a safer place to work and play," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "ISP staff is continually finding ways to invest in community projects. We really value that."

One of the unique aspects of this league is that it is located directly across the street from a maximum security prison. The ball fields, which are located on state property, are maintained by the offenders who reside at the Indiana State Prison (ISP). The State Prison staff direct and sponsor seven of the fifteen teams who play in the league. ISP staff and volunteers conducted a baseball clinic one week before the season started to teach the kids and parents fundamentals of the game.

The seven teams who are sponsored by staff and offenders at ISP wear the names of the departments who sponsor them. Some of the teams include the Custody Cubs, Warden's White Sox, and American Legion Post 160 "A's." The American Legion Post 160 is actually an offender led organization. It is the only American Legion Post in the United States, which operates solely inside a correctional facility.

This is the second consecutive year that the State Prison has committed to assisting the league.

"There is no community service endeavor more important to the staff at the Indiana State Prison than

working with the Intra-City League and kids in the Michigan City area," stated Facility Superintendent Ed Buss. "Staff at ISP organizes fundraisers throughout the year to fund the sponsorship for the different teams."

Off duty, correctional staff donate their own time to supervise the offenders who maintain the baseball grounds.

League Director and an employee at ISP, Larry Shadley stated, "Without the prison's commitment to assist in the maintenance of the fields and sponsorship of teams, this league would have difficulty functioning at the level it currently does."

The baseball season will conclude on August 10, 2007. The season will end with an awards ceremony and picnic for the children and families.

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About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.